

29 October 1968

## MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT : Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 31 October

Item 1 Watch Report

Draft by Watch Committee to be circulated for Board approval;

Sponsor - [REDACTED]

Item 2 NIE on Soviet Strategic Air and Missile Defenses

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;

Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

BNE and the USIB Representatives met most of today (Tuesday) in a clean-up session on this major military paper. USIB consideration was postponed a week in an effort to iron out some of the differences mainly in regard to the two major substantive issues described in Mr. Abbot Smith's briefing memorandum of 23 October [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] BNE plans to have available by early tomorrow a new set of Conclusions and textual changes to this draft as well as those dissenting footnotes which are available.

Item 3 NIE on Southeast Asia after Vietnam

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;

Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

This NIE was placed on the regular estimates program in response to a request by Secretary Clifford who wanted an elaboration of certain judgments made in the June NIE on World Trends and Contingencies Affecting U.S. Interests. BNE anticipates only two dissents, both by Army, at the USIB meeting. The most important relates to the way Southeast Asian leaders would react to a U.S. failure to prevent a Communist takeover in South Vietnam (paras. 25-26). The text does not minimize the psychological impact in the region nor the probable loss of confidence in the U.S., but the judgment is made that the leaders of Southeast Asia would not be automatically or immediately stampeded into any sharp reversals in foreign policy because of the loss of South Vietnam. They would, instead, suspend major policy decisions until there had been time and opportunity to learn more about U.S. intentions in Southeast Asia in the post-Vietnam period. [REDACTED] 25X1

Item 4 SNIE on Communist Capabilities and Intentions in Laos

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;

Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

This SNIE, which was requested by Mr. William Bundy, has been agreed upon without dissent at the USIB Representatives level and BNE is not aware at this time (Tuesday) of any problems which might arise at USIB. 25X1

Executive Secretary, USIB

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